

## A Question of Color.

The enormous difficulties of color terminology are illustrated by a customer's "exact statement of her requirements" in a large Dennagat establishment one day. "Something in blue taffeta silk, please. I don't want anything as dark as navy blue nor anything as light as Cambridge blue, but something darker than Eton blue and yet a little off from an electric blue and hardly a sky blue—more like a robin's egg blue and yet not quite so light, but not an indigo blue, but something like this tint; I think they call it morning glory blue, which is something like a turquoise blue and yet not quite so light as that and yet not so dark quite as this aquamarine blue nor so light as baby blue. Now, if you have anything in the shade I have described, please show it to me." The intelligent assistant unrolled a length, a cross between the blue devils and the deep sea, with the remark: "This is the shade of blue you require, madam. It is called 'London milk'."—Dyer and Calico Printer.

## The Oriental Mind.

Frederic S. Isham, the author, told me following to illustrate the double duplicity of the oriental mind. Mr. Isham was in Pekin. Passing the arch to the Baron von Kettler, supposed to be an arch of contrition for the foul assassination of that brave official, the novelist asked a Chinaman who spoke a little English:

"You know why this monument was erected, I suppose?"

"Oh, yes," was the ready reply in dialect, "to commemorate a triumphal deed, the death of a very powerful foreigner."

"Why not?" The Celestial's face was impenetrable, but a suggestion of sardonic humor seemed to flash from his slant eyes. "Chinese people much like monuments."

And, indeed, they seemed to bask in the shade of it with much satisfaction.

## Venetian Coffee Houses.

The first cup of coffee was drunk in Europe at Venice toward the end of the sixteenth century. The Venetian chronicler Moncalini in his records of the events in the year 1585 mentions the beverage called "cave" drunk by the Turks and noted for its anti-soporific qualities. In the year 1591 a Venetian doctor introduced the berries from Egypt, taught his countrymen how to crush them and brew the beverage, and the use of coffee soon became general—so much so, in fact, that Venice was full of coffee houses where the people idled away their days drinking the aromatic beverage. A peculiarity of the Venetian coffee houses was that their patrons did not pay for each cup of coffee they drank, but settled their bills for all the coffee consumed at the end of each year. The regular price of a cup of coffee was 5 soldi, about 2½ cents, and in some of the old cafes of Venice today the same price is still charged.—New York Sun.

## Awkward Compliment.

There is such a thing as being too persistently complimentary. A candid and well-meaning professor who had witnessed the performance of a little play in a private house in which his hostess had taken the leading part met the lady as she came from behind the curtain.

"Madam," he said, rushing up to her, "you played excellently. That part fits you to perfection."

"Oh, no, professor," said the lady modestly. "A young and pretty woman is needed for that part."

"But, madam," persisted the professor, "you have positively proved the contrary!"—Pearson's Weekly.

## Blamed the Planets.

In the middle of the fourteenth century in Paris a new ordinance enjoining the cleansing of the streets and the shutting up of swine was carefully neglected, as usual, and a terrible plague was the consequence. The faculty of medicine, called upon for a remedy by the king, sent to inform him after long discussion that the plague was the result of a hostile conjunction of the planets Mars and Jupiter.

## The Cause of Drafts.

Why is it that windows and doors are frequently ill fitting? There is nothing wrong with the wood itself, nor with the workmanship, as a rule, nor with the fit, at the outset at least, but the whole trouble is due to the wood being unseasoned, or, rather, only partially seasoned, at the time it is made up.—Timber.

## Optimistic.

"Is Jones an optimist?"

"Is he? He found a ticket entitling him to a chance in an automobile drawing the other day, and he is building a garage."—Boston Transcript.

## Answered.

Bobby—What's the simple life, pa? Father—Doing your own work, my son. Bobby—And what's the strenuous life? Father—Doing some other fellow's work. Now run along and play.

## Reminders.

Mrs.—He said I reminded him of a Greek goddess. Mr.—Huh! Mrs.—What do I remind you of? Mr.—Of every damned thing I overlook that you ask me to do.—Cleveland Leader.

## "Little Englands."

The English always carry with them their national customs, and wherever they settle down, even for awhile, they organize "little Englands."—Paris Opinion.

A patient mind is the best remedy for afflictions.—Plautus.

## Tragic Tale of a Tragedian.

"The awfullest and the funniest stage wait I ever lived through," said a sprightly English actress, "was when a certain well known London actor manager, whose name I dare not divulge, was doing a tremendous curse scene on a darkened stage. He had the audience spellbound with his sonorous declamation, which, of course, they didn't know depended largely upon his ample mouthful of false teeth. At the very climax of his blood-curdling maledictions the entire detail collection dropped out suddenly in the excitement of the moment and bounded into some obscure hiding place. The tragedian's mighty voice died down to an unintelligible mumble as he groped about frantically in search of the missing masticators. We were all too helpless from laughter to be of much help in the critical situation. At last after what seemed like half an hour of the most hysterical suspense, the stage manager located the teeth with the aid of a dark lantern and restored them to the frantic star, who clapped them into his mouth and began cursing again with redoubled earnestness. I never knew what the audience thought, and no one ever dared to ask the actor manager."—New York World.

## Quicksilver.

The ore from which quicksilver is obtained is a brilliant red rock known as cinnabar. When of high purity it is actually vermilion in color. Cinnabar is the original source of the pigment known commercially as vermilion. It is a compound of sulphur and quicksilver, and in order to separate the latter from the sulphur the rock is roasted. Passing off in the form of a gas, the mercury is afterward condensed and flows out in a fine stream, like a continuous pencil of molten silver. Like gold and silver, mercury is occasionally found in a native or pure state. Sometimes the miner's pick penetrates a cavity that contains a cupful or more of the elusive and beautiful fluid. Miners suffer much from the poisonous effects of the quicksilver fumes. Extreme cleanliness is the best safeguard for workers in this dangerous occupation. Use is also made of a sort of lemonade which serves to a certain extent as an antidote, a strong acid taking the place of lemon juice in the composition of the drink.

## Must Keep the Curtains Up.

"In London it is strictly against the law for the driver of any public conveyance to allow the curtains of his vehicle to be pulled down," said a man who has visited the English metropolis. "By day or night the windows of cabs, hansoms, carriages, or what not, whether drawn by horses or propelled by electric power, must be so open to public inspection as to allow a plain view of those occupying the interior. A closed rig wouldn't get a block before a London bobby would nab its driver and hale him to a magistrate's office, where he would get no mercy. The law is based on the theory that closed vehicles lend themselves easily to the commission of robbery or murder and that they may also assist a criminal to make his escape."—Baltimore American.

## The Gorgons.

The Gorgons were creatures of Greek mythology, mentioned by Homer and Euripides as being of peculiarly abhorrent aspect. Their hair was composed of serpents, their bodies covered with scales and grided with reptilian heads erect, vibrating their tongues threateningly, while the hands of the Gorgons, adorned with sharp talons, were of brass. The gaze of the monsters was deadly, all upon whom they fixed their eyes being turned to stone. One of the three terrible sisters was conquered and beheaded by Perseus, and as he took flight in the air en route for Ethiopia, holding the severed head in his hands, the drops of blood which fell from it became serpents, which ever after infested the sands of Libya.—New York Telegram.

## Avoided the Conventional.

"It is a wonderful story," says the publisher to the new author, whose manuscript has just been accepted, "but you have failed in one important feature. You do not describe the way the heroine was dressed when the hero first met her. You'd better write in a paragraph about her clothes, but try to avoid the conventional."

The ingenuously knowing the sameness of costume descriptions in the best sellers and also knowing how to make an appeal to the feminine heart, wrote:

"Heloise floated toward him garbed in a \$600 dress, a \$250 hat, with a \$68.75 mantilla over a \$375 lace coat."—Chicago Post.

## Sorry He Spoke.

He was very deferential, but he was a deacon in the church, and he felt that he had a right to criticize. "I hope you'll pardon me," he said, "if I suggest that your sermons are—ah—"

"Too preachy, I suppose?" suggested the minister.

"Oh, no, not that, but too long."

"But you mustn't blame me for that," returned the minister pleasantly. "If you knew a little more I wouldn't have to tell you so much."

## Qualified.

"Poor Mrs. De Olde! Her eyesight is failing so fast she is of very little use in society."

"Oh, she is in great demand."

"What for?"

"All the girls want her as chaperon."—Chicago Journal.

## The Sensible Thing.

Jones—Now, if you were in my shoes what do you think you would do in the matter? Brown (examining them)—Well, I certainly think I should get another pair.

## The National Savings Bank.

Every dollar spent in the education of the children brings hundredfold returns to the parents, the people in the aggregate and the state.—Atlanta Constitution.

## Faith evermore looks upward, but reason sees nothing that's above her.—Quarles.

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